

# Practical Information

## Who can Apply?

The EU Customs Certificate of Recognition targets Customs-specific Bachelor's and Master's study programmes offered by universities, business schools and colleges in Europe.

Eligible academic programmes should meet three criteria:

1. Be accredited<sup>2</sup> in line with the Bologna process;<sup>3,4</sup>
2. Be Customs-specific;
3. Be in line with the EU RTP for Academic Customs Education (a suggested comprehensive list of training areas based on commonly agreed Customs-specific competencies).

## How to Apply?

Interested parties can apply by completing the application documentation. To support universities, business schools and colleges in the application process, the European Commission has developed a step-by-step application guide that can be downloaded from the Europa website: [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/eu-training/eu-customs-competency-framework/eu-recognition-state-art-customs-academic-programmes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/eu-training/eu-customs-competency-framework/eu-recognition-state-art-customs-academic-programmes_en).

## When to Apply?

The application process is organised on a yearly basis. Applications received before 31/12 each year will be taken into consideration in the upcoming annual cycle.

## Who will Assess?

All applications will be assessed by an international Assessment Board composed of training experts, academics and Customs professionals under the lead and supervision of the European Commission.

This initiative is supported by the EU Cooperation Programme 'Customs 2020' and its successor programmes.

<sup>2</sup> National or international accreditation for Master's or Bachelor's academic programmes (or modules thereof) is typically provided by governmental or officially authorised accreditation bodies.

<sup>3</sup> The Bologna Process is a collective effort with the objective to: (a) introduce and implement a common three-cycle system for higher studies (Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate); (b) level and strengthen quality of studies and; (c) allow for easier recognition of qualifications and periods of study.

<sup>4</sup> Academic programmes that have not been nationally or internationally accredited yet must demonstrate that the accreditation process is ongoing.

## More information?

For more information you can contact the EU Certificate of Recognition Secretariat via: [EU-CertificateOfRecognition@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-CertificateOfRecognition@ec.europa.eu)

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union\*.

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(\* The information given is free, as are most calls (though some operators, phone boxes or hotels may charge you).

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# EU Recognition of State-of-the-Art Customs Academic Programmes



## The EU Customs Certificate of Recognition: A label of excellence for Customs academic programmes

The European Commission has taken the initiative to recognise academic programmes that equip students with the optimal Customs competency standards. European Customs Bachelor's and Master's programmes can be awarded with a Certificate of Recognition, acknowledging their leading role in raising Customs performance and professionalism. As such, the Certificate of Recognition serves as an EU label of excellence for high-quality, modern Customs academic programmes.

This initiative addresses today's reality where the protection of the interests of the European Union and its citizens, whilst facilitating legitimate trade, becomes increasingly complex. Twenty-first century challenges like new security threats, the ongoing refugee crisis, digital (r)evolutions and the impact of Brexit call for intensified European Customs cooperation as well as collaboration with the Trade community.

The current context demands a high-performing, connected, agile and future-proof European community of Customs professionals, both in the public and private sector. Customs education, training and professional development are the cornerstones required to build and nurture this community and to stay on par with the latest developments in the world of Customs and Trade.

## Impact on the Community of Future Customs Professionals

In the continuous war for talent, cutting-edge Customs academic programmes are the weapon of choice to attract and develop high potential Customs professionals. State-of-the-art Customs Bachelor's and Master's programmes will greatly enhance Customs performance across the EU. Graduates of recognised programmes will understand the role of Customs in the international supply chain, and combine strategic and management competencies with in-depth Customs operational capabilities.



## The European Commission's Leading Role in building World-Class Customs Services

The European Commission has developed the CustComp<sup>eu</sup> (EU Customs Competency Framework) outlining the optimal competency profiles for Customs professionals working in the public or the private sector<sup>1</sup>. Building on this, higher education Reference Programmes were designed as benchmarks for existing and future Customs academic programmes in Europe.

These Reference Programmes cover the optimal learning content for Customs professionals across various higher education programmes:

- ▶ Customs Master's programmes
- ▶ Customs Bachelor's programmes
- ▶ Customs modules within a Master's programme
- ▶ Customs modules within a Bachelor's programme

Customs academic programmes aligned with the EU Reference Programmes for Academic Education can obtain the EU Customs Certificate of Recognition, a label of excellence for Customs Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Europe.

## Overview of the Recognition Process

### 1. APPLICATION PHASE

- ▶ Complete the Initiation Request Document and send to: EU-CertificateOfRecognition@ec.europa.eu
- ▶ Then complete the Application Forms and send to: EU-CertificateOfRecognition@ec.europa.eu before 31/12, to be included in next year's assessment cycle.

### 2. ASSESSMENT PHASE

- ▶ Optionally, the EU Assessment Board may request an on-site visit to the training facilities to assess and discuss the programme in greater depth.
- ▶ The European Commission will share its final recognition decision by 31/05 of each year.
- ▶ EU Customs Certificate of Recognition

### 3. VERIFICATION PHASE

- ▶ Applications that were conditionally approved\* by the European Commission will be required to go through this phase. The applicant takes the required measures to meet the conditions set by the European Commission in obtaining recognition.
- ▶ EU Customs Certificate of Recognition

<sup>1</sup> The CustComp<sup>eu</sup> (EU Customs Competency Framework), the associated Training Curricula and the EU Reference Training Programmes (RTP) for Academic Customs Education are available on the Europa website: [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/eu-training/eu-customs-competency-framework\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/eu-training/eu-customs-competency-framework_en)

\* For applications that were conditionally approved, additional evidence demonstrating that the required updates to the programme (and/or the Application Forms) have been implemented, may be requested by the EU Assessment Board.

## What's in it for you?



## Value for Academic Programme Providers

Universities, business schools and colleges can promote the programme using the official EU identification statement and certificate.

Applying for an EU Customs Certificate of Recognition is a unique chance to benchmark the academic programme against the acknowledged competencies that will enable Customs professionals to successfully deal with future challenges.



## Value for Customs Students

The EU Customs Certificate of Recognition quality label reassures candidate students that the programme will equip them with the competencies needed for a successful Customs career, both in Customs Administrations and private organisations.

An EU recognised Customs Bachelor's or Master's degree, will reassure employers that the candidate is well-equipped to start, or boost, a career in Customs with an optimal competency skill set, thereby improving the employee's career perspectives.



## Value for the Customs Union

The EU Customs Certificate of Recognition is a cornerstone in promoting the establishment of higher education Customs academic programmes. As such, it drives consistency in the quality, design and delivery of these programmes throughout the European Union. This will in turn boost the performance of Customs in Europe through more unified Customs programmes that arm their participants with the competencies they need for a successful career.